

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Title is amended to be more clearly descriptive of the claimed invention.

Claim 1 is amended to address the misspelling noted therein.

The specification is also amended by the present response to correct minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 9-14 are added by the present response. Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,489,995 to Iso et al. (herein “Iso”). Claims 2-5, 7, and 8 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Initially, applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 7, and 8. With respect to that indication of allowable subject matter, new claims 9-13 are presented for examination. New claims 9-13 correspond to previously pending claims 2-5, 7, and 8 rewritten in independent form as needed. Thus, new claims 9-13 are believed to set forth subject matter indicated as allowable in the outstanding office action.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Iso, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Independent claim 1 is amended by the present response to clarify a feature recited therein, and particularly directed to the “deformation preventing device”. One feature clarified in independent claim 1 is the structure and positioning of a “deformation preventing device” utilized in claim 1 to be attached to a housing of an image sensor. With reference to Figs. 1-4 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a housing 4A, 4B of an

image sensor has been found by the applicants of the present invention to be subjected to bending pressures, see for example Figs. 12 and 13 in the present specification. To address such drawbacks, a deformation preventing device, for example element 14 in Figs. 1-4, is provided to reinforce the rigidity of the housing 4A, 4B. According to features clarified in independent claims 1 and 6, that deformation preventing device 14 is formed along “and attached at only one surface of the lengthwise direction of said housing”. That is, as noted in Figs. 1-4, the deformation preventing device 14 is only formed along and attached to one surface, see for example the surface on the housing 4A, in the lengthwise direction of the housing. That feature is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art to Iso.

In contrast to the claimed features, Iso discloses a complicated structure in which a substantial U-shaped support 222 is formed on three surfaces of a housing 201, as shown for example in Figs. 17-25 of Iso. Thus, Iso requires a more complicated and different approach than in the claimed invention in which a deformation preventing device is *only formed along and attached on one surface of a housing*. In contrast to the claimed features in Iso the support element 222 essentially completely encompasses a housing of an image sensor and is formed along and attached on plural surfaces of a housing. Independent claims 1 and 6 require a different structure.

In such ways, independent claims 1 and 6 are believed to clearly distinguish over Iso.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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